



Care Packet

February 2006

§ 20 Upland Street § Worcester, MA 01607 § Phone: 508-791-1530 § Fax: 508-797-9295 § Email: office@nesynod.org

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- T Youth training event, Trinity, Worcester, MA - March 11
- T World Hunger training events - March 26, 27 - deadline March 11
- T Taizé Trip for young adults, July 8-18 - deadline March 15 office@nesynod.org
- T Nomination Form for Synod Assembly - submit by April 1 office@nesynod.org
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- T Calumet winter/spring events, Annual Walkathon - April 22 www.calumet.org
- T Letter to retired rostered, widows, spouses from Pr. Ron Jackson
- T Post Easter Retreat at Calumet for retired group - April 18-20
- T Spring Theological Convocation, Prof. James Nieman - April 20 office@nesynod.org
- T Rx for Teachers at Calumet - April 21-23 office@nesynod.org
- T Women in Ministry Retreat - May 15-17 office@nesynod.org
- T 2006 ELCA Global Mission Event - plan now for July 27-30 www.elca.org/gme
- T 2006 Assembly Resolution form office@nesynod.org
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A BLESSED EPHIPHANY SEASON FROM THE ELCJHL



Even in the holy season of Epiphany, the stark realities of the occupation continue to worsen. Students at the Boys' Home in Beit Jala and the Lutheran Church there made this model of the Three Magi held up at the checkpoint as they try to reach the Holy Family in Bethlehem. Today's Magi or modern-day pilgrims face an even greater obstacle as they have to wind their way through the new mega-checkpoint recently opened that channels people through a maze of turnstiles, monitored by soldiers on elevated catwalks and ordered through the ordeal by loudspeakers from above. This play model illustrates how deeply our children are affected by today's realities and how they perceive the world.

Gracious God,

Even in the midst of the darkness, even as new gates loom in our paths, prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child and the light in our midst. Change us and help us change our situations so that child's play can be filled once more with innocence and unlimited possibility and not walls and checkpoints.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

New England Synod Calendar

/ February 2006

- 2 5:30 pm *Calumet Financial Development
- 3 10 am-2 pm *Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council
- 4 9:30 am-4 pm Healing the Wounds Community at Gloria Dei, Providence, RI
- 11 10 am-2 pm *Health and Wholeness
- 18 10 am-2 pm *Stewardship
- 20 *Presidents' Day – office closed*
- 22 10 am *monthly staff meeting

/ March 2006

- 1 *Ash Wednesday*
- 2 2 – 4 pm *task force for Gay and Lesbian Understanding
- 3 10 am-2 pm *Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council
- 4 Outreach/Evangelism meeting at Clare House, Holden, MA
- 3-5 Healing the Wounds Stage 1 Retreat at Espousal Center, Waltham, MA
- 10 12 – 3 pm *Lutheran Roman Catholic dialog
- 10-11 *Synod Council
- 11 9 am-3 pm Youth training event at Trinity, Worcester, MA
- 14-15 *Calumet Interviews
- 19 *Calumet Appreciation Sunday*
- 22 10 am *monthly staff meeting
- 23 11 am *Leadership Support
- 25 9:30 – 4:30 *Candidacy Meeting
- 29 NCD training
- 30 2:30 pm *Assembly Planning

**event at Synod House, Worcester, MA*

Watch your mail for the 2005 Synod Directory and Minutes Book - bulk mailed to all rostered leaders and one to each church in February.

SPRING 2006 DATES:

- Renewal of Vows for Rostered Leaders: Tuesday, April 4, Trinity, Worcester, MA***
- Spring Theological Convocation: Thursday, April 20, Concordia, Manchester, CT***
- Synod Assembly: June 8-10, DCU Center, Worcester, MA***

Oremus

Ruth Fritschel Janssen, 72, died peacefully Jan. 2, 2006, at her home in Northampton, MA, following a battle with ALS. A memorial service was held Saturday, Jan. 21, at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, Shrewsbury, MA.

Ruth worked as a Christian educator at Grace, Needham, MA, and Immanuel, Holden, MA, and was commissioned as an Associate in Ministry in the ELCA in 1988. After her retirement, Ruth organized a resource information center for the New England Synod, and served as its "resource navigator" for several years. In December 2005, the New England Synod honored Ruth by naming the resource center "The Janssen Resource Center of the New England Synod."

Ruth served the New England Synod in many capacities, both as a Christian educator and in evangelism and outreach capacities. She was also an avid quilter and maker of liturgical stoles.

Cards or remembrances may be sent to Ruth's daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Jack Janssen, as well as to her son, Eric Janssen, at 122 Black Birch Trail, Florence, MA 01062.

Pr. Henry Tomsuden, hospitalized at the New England Rehab Hospital, Woburn, MA

Pr. Richard Burgess, on the death of his mother December 26, 2005, in Atlanta, GA

✝ Rostered Leaders in Transition

Pr. Blake Wamester was called as pastor at Trinity, Centerbrook, CT, November 13, 2005

Pr. Robert "Rip" Hoffman was called as pastor at Salem, Bridgeport, CT, January 8, 2006

Pr. Glenn Palmer returned home to Fort Riley, KS, from his 2nd tour of duty in Iraq on Jan. 20, 2006



Congregations in Transition

Connecticut

Gloria Dei, Forestville (Assoc.)	Awaiting Candidate
Good Shepherd, Hamden	Self Study
Immanuel, Naugatuck	Self Study
St. Andrew, Ridgefield (Assoc.)	Awaiting Candidate
St. James, Southbury	Intentional Interim
St. John's, Brooklyn	Intentional Interim
St. Luke, Gales Ferry (Assoc.)	Awaiting Candidate
Trinity, Milford	Interviewing
Zion, Bristol	Interviewing
Zion, Waterbury	Self Study

Maine

St. Andrew, Ellsworth	Awaiting Candidate
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Massachusetts

Covenant, Gardner	Awaiting Candidate
Christ, Falmouth	Self Study
First, Gardner	Self Study
Good Shepherd, Westboro	Intentional Interim
Resurrection, Roxbury	Awaiting Candidate
St. John's, Sudbury (Co-Pas)	Awaiting Candidate
St. Peter's, Harwich	Interviewing

New Hampshire

Advent, Rindge	Awaiting Candidate
Good Shepherd, Laconia	Self Study
Messiah, Amherst	Interviewing
St. Paul, Berlin	Self Study

Rhode Island

St. Peter's, Newport	Awaiting Candidate
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Vermont

Ascension, S. Burlington

Awaiting Candidate

Bulletin Board February 2006

The **Wittenberg University Choir**, of Springfield, OH, will perform twice in New England during March: Tuesday, **March 7**, 7:30 pm, at **Emmanuel Lutheran Church**, 24 Berwick St., **Norwood, MA**, and Wednesday **March 8**, 7:30 pm, at **Pawtucket Congregational Church**, 40 Walcott St., **Pawtucket, RI**.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice will take place **March 10-13, 2006, in Washington, DC**. This year's theme is *Challenging Disparity: The Promise of God – The Power of Solidarity*. This event is your opportunity to join with hundreds of other Christian sisters and brothers to speak truth to those in power, to learn about issues of deep concern to the body politic and, most importantly, to make the voices of the religious community heard on Capitol Hill. For detailed information and registration, please **contact Pr. Ted Asta at 508-791-1530 X101**

You can contribute to **ELCA Disaster Response** through your congregation, or directly to the ELCA by credit card on the phone (800/638-3522) or online (www.elca.org/giving). Your donations designated for hurricane relief will be used entirely - 100 percent - in both immediate and long-term response.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans **will match \$1 for every \$2 contributed** (up to \$600 per member) by Thrivent members to one of the following organizations: **ELCA Domestic Disaster Response**, Lutheran Disaster Response, LCMS World Relief/Human Care, WELS Committee on Relief. You must use the official form. Contact Barb.Giger, barb.giger@thrivent.com, 508-947-6911, 800-816-7910, for the required form. Visit www.thrivent.com/fraternal/katrina.html to learn more.

THE LINK ON PAPER OR ONLINE: You can read the current as well as past issues of *The Lutheran Link* on the synod website www.nesynod.org under *RESOURCES, NEWS*. This year's emphasis is on health, as Pastor Bryan Leone, the Synod's official "Wellness Champion," coaches eight synod leaders through a spiritually-based weight-loss regimen involving diet, exercise, and prayer. Their progress as "**healthy leaders**" is being tracked through their reflections (and an occasional photo). For **free home delivery**, simply call the Synod House, 508-791-1530, or email sisterv@nesynod.org

The **annual Mayo Clinic Health Risk Assessment** will be available **until Feb. 28**. To prepare for this great opportunity, gather your recent cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure numbers and register at the ELCA's wellness web site, <http://www.elcaforwellness.org> Participants will also receive a **free copy** of Bishop Murray Finck's book, *Stretch & Pray: A Daily Discipline for Spiritual and Physical Health and Wellness*.

The **ELCA Board of Pensions website** is filled with helps for members and for treasurers. Find calculators and links for wellness sites. There is even a place to share recipes! Visit www.elcabop.org and explore the wealth of information that may be helpful for you.

The ELCA Board of Pensions has scheduled two **Pre-Retirement Seminars** in our synod: Monday – Wednesday, **July 17-19**, and Wednesday – Friday, **July 19-21**, 2006, at the Blue Gentian Lodge in **Londonderry, VT**. It is strongly recommended that you attend with your spouse and gather information before coming – i.e. there is homework – to prepare for this most helpful event. To reserve your space, contact Pr. Ron Jackson at maryronj@juno.com or call him at 508-853-0020.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), in partnership with Wheat Ridge Ministries, offers grants to Lutheran congregations for development of *new* services for immigrants and refugees. The **Good Samaritan Fund** was established in honor of the Rev. August Bernthal for his dedicated leadership in serving refugees and immigrants. Seed **grants** up to \$5,000 are available. Download the application packet or review grant guidelines at www.lirs.org **Deadline: March 1, 2006**.

Four \$2,500 **scholarships for students of religious music** will be granted this spring by the National Religious Music Week Alliance of Hamilton, OH. The scholarships, based on merit, are for individuals of any faith, enrolled in a college-level music program leading to a career in the ministry of music. Log

on to www.religiousmusicweek.com for application and details. **Deadline: March 15.**

Please visit the website for our companion synod, the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land** (ELCJHL). Learn history, current activities, and the vision of our sisters and brothers in Palestine at <http://www.holyland-lutherans.org> Bishop Younan's sermons, the ELCJHL newsletters, and the website itself are filled with remarkable photos and personal stories of hope.

Augusta Victoria Hospital, located on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem, offers bottles of **olive oil** from LWF owned trees on the local hillside to offset their operational costs. It is shipped in hand-blown bottles made by Palestinian artisans using recycled glass. See details at the LWF website: www.lwfjerusalem.org/olive_oil.htm or email to info@lwfjerusalem.org

Did you know? A used auto given to the **Good News Garage** is deductible at the book value. Comparing that to the \$400 limit of other organizations, the choice is easy: Call 877-GIVE-AUTO.

Curious about **investments or loans with the Mission Investment Fund**? Call Rev. Mark Wimmer at 267-203-0037 or email mwimmer@lctelford.org Info also available at www.elca.org/mif

Jobs

WANTED: a **Minister of Music** (Organist and/or Pianist; Choir Director) for weekly services and choir rehearsals at *St. Paul in Middletown, CT*. Additional hours required for special celebrations. Salary negotiable. Contact Pr. Maureen Hawksley at StPaulLuthChurch@aol.com or 860-346-9107.

Salem Lutheran, Bridgeport, CT, seeks a part time **Youth Coordinator** for 19.5 hours/week, including Sundays and evenings. This long-term position will include: develop and maintain an active youth group (7th grade thru high school), coordinate with Sunday School and Confirmation programs, participate in Sunday morning worship, organize and run two youth meetings and one youth event monthly, attend Confirmation Camp (one week) annually, and attend monthly Education Committee meetings. Possibly teach Confirmation instruction to grades 7 and/or 8. Mail to: Youth Coordinator Search, 3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604 or e-mail to chemich76-salem@yahoo.com

The **Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, CT**, seeks an ordained clergy person with fundraising, marketing and convening skills to be **Executive Director**. Programs include community "bridge building," a co-op center for ex offenders, hunger outreach, elementary after-school programs, and a crisis hotline for youth. Full description online at www.ccqb.org. Deadline Feb. 28, 2006.

The **ELCA** posts position openings both for their Chicago office and for churches and synods who submit. View descriptions online or complete an application at www.elca.org/hr/career.html

Opportunities

*Wouldn't you love to be part of the New England Synod office team?
We have three opportunities that may match your skills and interests or
those of someone you know:*



PART TIME PAID POSITION

Part time data entry/secretary, up to fifteen hours per week. Call *Pastor Alice Kerr Laird* at 508-791-1530 x104, to set up an interview, or send a resumé to her attention at 20 Upland St, Worcester, MA 01607.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

Synod Statistician to review incoming ELCA annual congregation report forms for mathematical accuracy and help boost the synod's response level by phoning congregations. Expenses reimbursed. Please contact *Marilyn Durant* at 508-791-1530 x105.



Are you a **computer geek** and looking for opportunities to express your artistic ideas? The synod communication team needs a volunteer, preferably a high school student, **who is comfortable with website lingo and concepts**. Contact Sister Virginia Strahan at sisterv@nesynod.org or 508-791-1530 x103



Learning Opportunities

God is calling YOU to Heal the Wounds of Racism. Sign up now for this year's retreats: Stage I retreats will be held **March 3-5** and **August 18-20, 2006**. Stage II retreats, for those who have completed stage I, are scheduled for **May 12-14** and **September 29-Oct. 1, 2006**. You may also help with a financial gift toward this work. Following the initial retreat, attendees are invited to join the community for quarterly Bible study and fellowship in this ongoing process. Please join us! Call for a brochure 508-791-1530 or visit the synod website www.nesynod.org (*Resources/ Healing the Wounds.*)

Spring Theological Convocation, hosted by the Synod's Leadership Support team, will be held **Thursday, April 20, 2006**. Dr. James Nieman, professor of practical theology at Hartford Seminary, will speak on *What we have seen and heard: Preaching in the stream*. Brochure enclosed and posted on www.nesynod.org (events/spring convocation).

Did you know? The **2006 ELCA Global Mission Event** will be held right here in New England July 27-30, 2006, at the University of Massachusetts' Amherst Campus. Visit www.elca.org/gme to learn more. Registration materials will be sent to each ELCA congregation about February 1. Pr. Blake Wamester and Ms. Deirdra Schmidt are our co-facilitators, educating us on how to be a part of this wonderful eye-opening event – a great time for families to learn and play together. **Speakers are available to come to your congregation** or conference meeting to tell more details. To arrange a date, contact Ms. Deirdra Schmidt at schmidtdee@aol.com or call 603-882-2876.

Bishop's Convocation 2006, will be held **October 23-25** at the Crowne Plaza, Worcester, MA. We welcome **ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson** as our speaker. Mark the dates on your calendar. Registration materials will be available late spring.

Wheat Ridge Ministries offers financial grants to Lutheran congregations providing **sabbaticals** for pastors and other full-time church workers. Visit www.wheatridge.org and click "projects/services" to reach their sabbatical resource pages.

Is your congregation sending a group to the **2006 ELCA National Youth Gathering** in San Antonio, Texas? If so, **please contact Cindy Hall**, an AIM serving at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Manchester, CT, with the following info: 1) The name of your congregation, and 2) The name of your congregation's contact person, his/her email and phone number. Please send to: chrised@snet.net. She will compile an email list of participating New England congregations and select the location of our local leader training events to be held in March and April 2006.

Koinonia NYC organizes **servant events** that include service projects, faith-based conversations, worship disciplines, Bible study, New York City experiences and a "Faith Walk" at Ground Zero. The full-week schedule combines service time in the urban environment of New York City with a closing weekend retreat at Koinonia's wilderness setting in cabin housing. Koinonia Shorter events also possible. Koinonia NYC works in partnership with Lutheran Social Services (LSS), Lutheran Disaster Response of New York (LDRNY), and New York City Lutheran congregations. For info contact the Koinonia at 212-669-6131 or KoinoniaNYC@yahoo.com or you can visit www.KoinoniaNY.org or www.LDRNY.org.

Augsburg Fortress is offering David Yount's ***Celebrating the Rest of Your Life: A Baby Boomer's Guide to Spirituality***, which provides practical and spiritual strategies for the future. When retirement is in sight, it is prime time to stretch your mind, drop your emotional guard, invest in others, and cultivate community beyond those who live within your domestic walls. Read more about this new book at www.augsburgfortress.org or borrow it from the New England Synod Resource Center.

The ELCA offers a daily Bible reading. Visit www.elca.org and choose "hot topics." It is listed under "the top 10." You can also subscribe and have it forwarded to your personal email

Busy, Bombarded, and Bored. . .

inside the world of today's teenagers

Join fellow youth workers from the Synod and area churches for a day dedicated to looking at the issues affecting teenagers today, and how churches can respond to them in creative, exciting, fun, and innovative ways.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester, Mass., is hosting Greg Fry, a Youth Minister based in California, to lead any and all youth workers in a Saturday workshop on youth ministry. Whether your youth programs are strong or strained, you won't want to miss this opportunity!

Saturday, March 11, 9 AM—3 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church. Lunch and coffee breaks are included. Registration fee is \$20 per person. Fill out the attached form and send it to Trinity Lutheran Church via email (tlcyouthdirector@trinityworc.org); postal service (73 Lancaster St, Worcester, MA 01609) or call 508-753-2989 x15 to reserve your space. Registration must be received by *February 24th, 2006*.

This is an excellent event for anyone who encounters the youth of the church, we encourage you to bring more than one interested adult and re-light the fire of Youth Ministry in your congregation!

Busy, Bombarded and Bored Registration Form

Registration Deadline: February 24th, 2006

Church Name and Address

(Check
One)

Names of Participants

Primary Contact, Name and Daytime Phone Number

Total Registration Fee
(\$20 per Participant)

Payment Included with Registration Form	To be paid at Event on March 11th
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**Directions to
Trinity Lutheran Church,
73 Lancaster St., Worcester, MA
508-753-2989**

Take Mass. Tpk. Exit 10, Auburn, to Route 290 East or take Exit 10A, Route 146 N to Route 290 East

Follow through downtown to exit 17-- Belmont St. (Rte. 9)

At end of ramp turn left, down the hill.

At bottom of hill bear right. At the first traffic light bear left.

Continue through 2 more lights to the 3rd set of lights and take a left onto Lancaster St. Trinity is the yellow church on the corner.

From Route 495 take Route 290 West to exit 18 -- Lincoln Square

At end of exit ramp turn right and take the next right.

Continue through 2 more lights to the 3rd set of lights and take a left onto Lancaster St. Trinity is the yellow church on the corner.

A WORLD HUNGER TRAINING EVENT

**For Congregational World Hunger Advocates,
Pastors and Lay Leaders**

**Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT
(phone: 860-649-5311)**

**Sunday, March 26, 2-7 p.m.,
Messiah Lutheran Church, 303 State Route 101 , Amherst, NH
(phone: 603-673-2011)**

**Keynote Speaker: Nancy Arnison
Director of the ELCA World Hunger Program
“JUSTICE AND WORLD HUNGER”**

Workshops:

**“The ONE Campaign and Congregational Advocacy”
Pastor Derrick Boykin, Bread for the World**

**“Projects funded by ELCA World Hunger Monies”
Deirdra Schmidt, Global Mission Co-Chairperson**

“Impacting our Congregations - for Pastors; for Congregational World Hunger Advocates & Lay Leaders” Pastor David & Doreen Rinas, Co-Chairpersons of the New England Synod World Hunger Committee

**Please register by March 11, 2006 – form on reverse
Registration and lunch fee: \$5.00
Payable to: Trinity Lutheran Church**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Doreen Rinas by phone: 978-433-2645 or email:
doreenrinas@yahoo.com

Directions to Concordia, Manchester, CT

From I-84 coming from the west (Hartford), take I-384 to Exit 4, Highland St. Turn left at the end of the exit. Proceed through the light and bear left at the stop sign. Proceed through the next stop sign then (bear) the third right onto Pitkin St. Proceed several blocks to the church which will be on the left.

From I-84 coming from the east (Sturbridge), take Exit 63, South Windsor/Manchester. Bear right and then turn right onto Connecticut Rte. 83 South. Stay on Rte. 83 for a while--at one point you will have to turn right, go a block, and turn left at intersections to stay on Rte. 83. At the big intersection with U.S. Rts. 6 & 44, turn left. Proceed to the fourth light, Pitkin St. Turn right and the church will be just a few feet down on the right

Directions to Messiah, Amherst, NH

From the south:

Take I-495 to route 3 North toward Nashua, NH
Merge onto Everett Turnpike, merge onto NH 101A bypass toward Amherst, Milford. Take the route 101A ramp, follow Route 101A west. Turn left onto Route 101 East toward Manchester. Follow for 5.9 miles. Messiah will be on the right after Salzburg Square Mall.

From the north:

Take route I-89 to I-93 south, then I-293 south to Route 101 west. (Or from Maine, follow I 95 south to Route 101 west to this intersection.) Follow 8.5 miles. Messiah will be on the left after the Amherst Flower Shop.

YES, sign me (us) up for the World Hunger Training Event! Please check one:

_____ **Saturday, March 25, at Concordia, Manchester, CT, 9 am – 2 pm**

_____ **Sunday, March 26, at Messiah, Amherst, NH, 2 pm - 7 pm**

Name(s): _____

Church: _____

City & State: _____

Telephone number of Contact Person:

day: _____ **evening:** _____

**Thanks for
sending this so
we receive it by
March 11**

**Send to:
Doreen Rinas
Trinity Lutheran
Church
170 Old Westford Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824**

**Please send a check made out to *Trinity Lutheran Church* for \$5.00 for each person for lunch and registration fee.
If you would rather email this, please do so to:
doreenrinas@yahoo.com. You can pay the registration and lunch fee of \$5 at the event.**

Invitation to all Rostered Leaders of New England Synod:

**Holy Eucharist and Renewal of Vows
with Blessing of Oil**

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Trinity Lutheran Church
73 Lancaster Street
Worcester, Mass.

9:00 a.m. sanctuary open for silent meditation

9:30 a.m. Way of the Cross Devotional Service

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Renewal of Vows and
Blessing of Oil - Bishop Margaret Payne
preaching and presiding

(Please bring a small container to receive oil.)

12:00 noon lunch

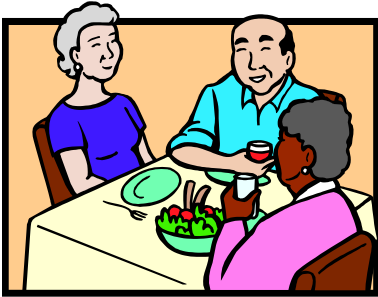
We will need numbers for lunch. Please rsvp to synod office:

508-791-1530 or kduffy@nesynod.org

WORDS to RETIREES - from Ron - wending from WORCESTER

(It is OK for potential retirees to read over our shoulders.)

It's Epiphany-tide and we're celebrating various manifestations of God – in the vast Universe surrounding us. It's Epiphany-tide and we're celebrating various manifestations of God to us, through us and among us – where the Christian faith/faith-life are manifest. What a picture: the Baby of Bethlehem grew up to be the Crucified Christ – the One who arose triumphantly from the tomb - so we people can “Live.” Alleluia!!!



The number of New England Synod Retired “roster-ees” and spouses of “roster-ees” hovers around 300, these days. What a magnificent “bunch” we are. Late in the Fall of '05 about 50 of us got together in Worcester for Eucharist, Lunch and Conversation with our Bishop. What a wonderful time we had. We're looking into the possibility of another such gathering on 20 or 21 June 2006. Please pencil in those dates on your calendars. The place is still to be determined, so you can impress others by your calendar entry which simply says: 11 am – 2 pm LUNCH WITH BISHOP. I'm impressed! (Care to invite us to your home turf???)

Before that date, however, we all are invited to three other events of significance.

First comes our annual Call Commitment Vow Renewal opportunity. This year's celebration will occur at Trinity Church in Worcester on 4 April 2006 at 9 am. This celebration will include opportunity for personal absolution, personal vow renewal and the Holy Eucharist. Lunch will also follow – with ample opportunity for conversation, before we head back home. A flyer is included in this Care Packet with details and directions.

Second comes our annual Easter Week Camp Calumet Gathering. For many years Calumet has reserved a mid-week block of time – during the First Week of Easter - for Retired Roster-ees and Spouses. This year is no exception. Gathering time will be before lunch Tuesday 18 April and scattering time will be after lunch on Thursday 20 April. One indication of the appreciation of Calumet for our past and present ministries is the deeply discounted price. What will the program be? The planning committee – that never meets – has not yet met to plan this year's program. They will be reporting their suggestions to me, asap. The cost is \$65 per person. Such a deal! Elsewhere in this Care Packet is the essential registration form. Please act soon.



on

Third comes our annual Synod Assembly. Most retirees already know (and pre-retirees can begin planning ahead) that there is no registration charge for Retired Roster-ees at the Assembly. Those who are really savvy also know that a modest subsidy is available for travel, meals and accommodations for retirees who may not otherwise be able to be present. The time and place: 8-10 June 2006 at the DCU Center and Crowne Plaza Hotel, downtown Worcester, Massachusetts. Nomination form is in this mailing, should you have a name to nominate for Synod Council or Churchwide Assembly positions.

(continued)

And then – comes a potential trip to Vermont in August. For years already, Synod retirees have been invited – by Koinonia of Vermont – to gatherings at the Blue Gentian Lodge in Londonderry, VT, in August. This year will be no exception. dates for next Summer are: 9 to 11 August. Among other foci be in depth discussions of two books: ...the classic: The Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Doestoevsky; and the contemporary selection: In the Beauty of the Lilies, by John Updike. Retirees Don and Phyllis Helfrich will lead these discussions. Winter may be a good time to begin reading. Another significant feature of this event is the celebration of The Holy Eucharist at the Weston Priory which is fairly close by.



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And – it is not too early to take note of the fact that this year's Bishop's Convocation will be extra special – because Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson has agreed to be with us at the Crowne Plaza in Worcester. The dates are 23-25 October. The Leadership Support Committee continues to offer a discount registration rate for Retirees. Plus - something very special is being planned for us as part of this event. Such a deal! We are much appreciated, celebrated and thanked by many people.

All in all – retirement can be exciting and meaningful . . .

Blessings!

Ron

The Rev. Ronald E. Jackson,
Coordinator of Retirement Ministries

P.S. Now for you Pre-Retirees: we are making available two Board of Pension Pre-retirement Seminars this summer: 17 to 19 and 19 to 21 July - at The Blue Gentian Lodge in Vermont. Please email me at maryronj@juno.com for further information or to reserve your space.

**NEW ENGLAND SYNOD POST-EASTER RETREAT
FOR RETIRED PASTORS, SPOUSES, WIDOWS – April 18-20, 2006
From lunch Tuesday, April 18, through lunch Thursday, April 20**

Directions to Calumet

From Boston, MA: Rte. 128 to Rte. 95 North. Continue to Portsmouth. Follow signs for Route 16 and the Spaulding Turnpike. Continue north on Rte. 16 until you come to West Ossipee at the junction of Route 25 West. Take your next right at the blinking light which is Route 41. Go 1/2 mile and take a right onto Ossipee Lake Road. Calumet will be 2.7 miles down the road.

From Portland, ME: Rte. 25 West. Turn off Rte. 25 at Rte. 153 North in Effingham Falls/Freedom, NH. Take a left on the Ossipee Lake Road. Continue on the Ossipee Lake Road to stop sign and bear left down the hill. Calumet will be 3 miles down the road.

From Burlington, VT: Rte. 89 to Rte. 4 to Rte. 25. At the junction of Rte. 25 and Rte. 16 in West Ossipee turn left (North on Rte. 16.) Take your next right at the blinking light which is Rte. 41. Go 1/2 mile and take a right onto the Ossipee Lake Road. Calumet will be 2.7 miles down the road.

From Hartford, CT: Rte. 84 to Rte. 90 to Rte. 290 to Rte. 495 North to Rte. 95. *Follow directions as from Boston.*

NEW ENGLAND SYNOD
POST-EASTER RETREAT FOR RETIRED PASTORS, SPOUSES, WIDOWS
April 18-20, 2006, Camp Calumet, W. Ossipee, NH

name(s) _____

address _____

phone & email _____

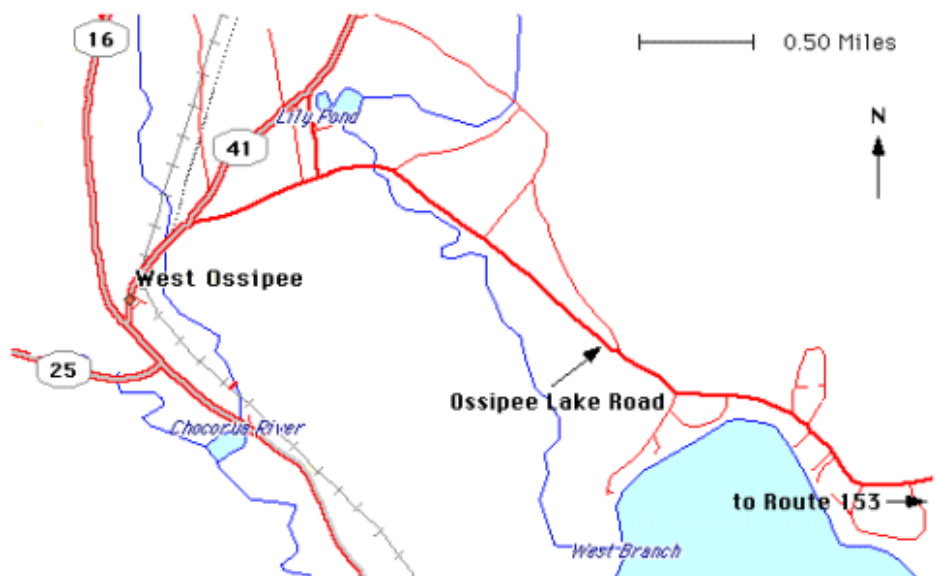
special needs _____

Please enclose with a check for \$65 per person, payable to New England Synod.

Mail to:

New England Synod
PO Box 13
Worcester, MA 01614-0013

DEADLINE March 31



New England Synod, ELCA
Office of the Bishop
20 Upland St.
Worcester, MA 01607-1624
office@nesynod.org
www.nesynod.org
508-791-1530

9:00 - 9:15 am – staff devotions and prayer
12:00 - 1:00 pm - phones off for lunch time
4:00-5:00 pm - phones answered by the voice mail system - use extensions listed below

ASSOCIATES TO THE BISHOP

The Rev. Ted Asta x101 tasta@nesynod.org
The Rev. Rebecca Bourret rbourret@nesynod.org
HOME OFFICE 860-430-1088

MISSION DIRECTOR

The Rev. Jane Shields x102 jshields@nesynod.org
HOME OFFICE 508-896-2284

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ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT BISHOP'S APPEAL COORDINATOR

The Rev. Alice Kerr Laird x104
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CONGREGATIONAL CARE FOR MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, VERMONT, AND NEW YORK

The Rev. Tim Roser trosler@nesynod.org
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Mr. Steven Kennedy stev4uth@hotmail.com
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****** OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF ******

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EDITOR OF THE LUTHERAN LINK AND DIRECTOR OF SYNOD RESOURCE CENTER

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The Synod website *at your command*

Please visit: www.nesynod.org for
current synod event info and commonly
used documents, including
compensation guidelines, pulpit supply
list, and our vision statement



